

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. The zirconia sintered body comprising tetragonal zirconia, wherein a full width at half maximum at (111) plane of the tetragonal zirconia obtained by X-ray diffraction pattern measured under following conditions is from 0.38 to 4 degree.

Conditions:

Radiation Source: CuK α beam,
Voltage · Amplitude : 40 kV × 30 mA,
10 Monochromator: Graphite ,
Divergence Slit: 1.0 degree,
Scattering Slit: 1.0 degree,
Detector Slit: 0.3 degree,
Step Size: 0.2 degree,
15 Time/step: continuous,
Background Correction: made,
Scan Speed: 0.4 degree/minute.

2. The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1, wherein the full width at half maximum at (111) plane of the tetragonal zirconia is from 0.4 to 2 degree.

3. The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the full width at half maximum at (111) plane of the tetragonal zirconia is 1 degree or less.

4. The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1, wherein a ratio of the tetragonal zirconia in the zirconia

sintered body is 90 % by volume or more.

5. The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1, wherein an average grain size of the zirconia sintered body is from 0.01 to 0.3 μm .

5 6. The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1, wherein a density of the zirconia sintered body is 6 g/cm^3 or more.

7. The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 6, wherein the density of the zirconia sintered body is from 6
10 to 6.1 g/cm^3 .

8. The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1, wherein the zirconia sintered body contains a stabilizer.

9. The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 8, wherein the stabilizer is at least one selected from the group
15 consisting of Y_2O_3 , CeO_2 , MgO , CaO , TiO_2 , Yb_2O_3 , Er_2O_3 and Ho_2O_3 .

10. The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1, wherein the zirconia sintered body contains Al_2O_3 .

11. A method for producing the zirconia sintered body, wherein the method comprises steps of; molding zirconia powder
20 having an average particle diameter of from 0.1 to 0.6 μm , a maximum particle diameter of 5 μm or less and a substantially polyhedral shape, and then sintering the molded green body under the temperature of from 1200 to 1400 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

12. The method according to Claim 11, wherein the
25 zirconia powder contains monoclinic crystal.

13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein a ratio of the monoclinic crystal in the zirconia powder is 70 % by volume or more.